



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Johnnie Stewart, 37, and Jonathan Atkins, 29, both of Madison, Wisconsin, and formerly of Chicago, Illinois, were sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to twenty-five years each for distribution of crack cocaine in Madison, Wisconsin. Stewart and Atkins both pleaded guilty to that crime on February 25, 2005.

These convictions stem from an incident that took place on November 4, 2004, at the Alhambra Apartments in Madison, Wisconsin. On that day, an undercover officer arranged to purchase over two ounces of crack cocaine from Stewart. When the undercover officer arrived at the Alhambra Apartments with another individual, Atkins, at Stewart's request, delivered over 56 grams of crack cocaine to the undercover officer.

Both Stewart and Atkins were sentenced as career offenders, meaning that each had two prior felony convictions for distribution or manufacture of controlled substances. Both defendants had lengthy criminal histories, with Stewart spending much of the last twenty years in some sort of prison setting, and Atkins having five prior felony drug convictions. In sentencing both defendants, Judge Shabaz noted the

need for incapacitation to protect the general public from these defendants' criminal conduct.

The charges against Stewart and Atkins were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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